







GNUUs


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Events This Month

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Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+
Except for July 3 and July 17

*onsite

+online

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Gnu is also a snowboard company.
- There are only so many gnu facts that I can learn without becoming a biologist.
- Unless there are objections, this section might just turn into a random trivia section.





Worship in July Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Recreation

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

July 3: Online and/or In Person

Recreating America

Langston Hughes implores us to “let America be America again” and reminds us “America was never America to me.” As we celebrate the founding of this country, we explore what we can learn from the past as we look forward to recreate the dream of America starting in our own communities.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

July 10: Online and/or In Person

The Game of Faith

Re-creating faith and seeing its recreation and play as an opportunity for centering and peace.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader

July 17: Online and/or In Person

Party of Whoever Shows Up

Our Leadership Covenant states “We take our roles, but not ourselves, seriously, leaving room for fellowship and fun.” Embracing our playful spirits and using all of our senses while engaging in “learning adventures.”

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Bill Benshoof (he/him), Service Leader

July 24: Online and/or In Person

Re-creation: How Our Shared Stories Move Us Forward

What have we learned? Where are we going? Join us as we share our stories and reflect on these questions.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Sherree Bailey (she/her), Service Leader

July 31: Online and/or In Person

Work, Play, and Re-creation

What is the opposite of play? Most of us might say “work” but there is evidence for something else. Let’s play around with this question and see where it leads.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leader

Faith Development Sundays at 10:00am

Faith Development Programs are on hiatus for the month of July. We will be spending this time planning programming for the upcoming program year. We encourage you to engage with the resources provided [here](#) for engaging with our themes throughout the week.

A robust and thriving Faith Development program does not happen without your input! Please take a moment to complete [this short survey](#) to let us know what YOU would like to see offered in Faith Development.

If your family is registered for Faith Development and RE, you should have received a Family Faith Development questionnaire via email. If you did not, or if you’re not registered but would like to receive one, please reach out to Christiana at cmcquain@uucg.org.





Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo



Beloveds, we begin a new adventure together as I shift to part-time ministry in July.

Re-Creation, Recreation, and Play is our theme for our shared ministry in July.

As we embark on this new chapter of our shared ministry, I encourage everyone to have a sense of playfulness as we navigate this new schedule ...and, the first few months of half-time ministry may be a little messy – we will be figuring this out together. We will need to practice grace and patience, and call forth the best in one another to rise to meet the needs of the congregation.

After 2-1/2 years of on-line and dual-platform programs we are developing a new rhythm for congregational life. Many of our programs are still strong and vital, and I am so grateful for the leaders who have stepped up to keep us connected and strong. And, as we begin a new program year, and a new ministry schedule, our greatest need is volunteers!

The Shared Ministry Council and I are working diligently to recruit volunteers to serve on our various ministry teams to support our programs and events. I hope

when you are called to serve you will offer an emphatic, “Yes!” Or be proactive! If you are curious about where your skills and interests fit with the needs of our programs and ministries, please email our Shared Ministry Council sharedministry@uucg.org or me, revtaddeo@uucg.org, and we will explore possibilities with you.

As we explore our theme of play and recreation in our worship services, faith development programs, and covenant groups, you are encouraged to look for ways in which play, playfulness, and recreation show up in your life ... and perhaps increase your intentional play time!

Speaking of recreating - please register for the UUCG Congregational Retreat at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center September 16-18. This will be an amazing time for rekindling our connections, sharing laughter and joy, and nurturing your spirit among the 400+ year-old white oaks in this beautiful place. Here's the link: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/uu-gwinnett>

If you would like to support another person or family to be able to participate in the retreat, you can send contributions to UUCG and indicate MDF-Retreat Scholarship in the memo or Venmo/PayPal note. The fee for adults is \$215 per person for double occupancy. If you need financial support to attend the retreat, please contact me at revtaddeo@uucg.org.

With love and joy...

Reverend Jan

General Assembly

Submitted by Maryjane Stout (she/her)

Hi! Just back from GA! Newer members, or folks new to Unitarian Universalism, may not realize that our congregation is a member of a larger group, the UU Association. In return for annual dues, we have available to us a HUGE host of resources and staff to help lead, manage, and grow the congregation. Importantly, the UUA also helps congregations identify and hire ministers, and manages ministerial credentialing. Every year, UUA holds an annual General Assembly. This year's event was in Portland, OR and online. Your delegates were Sherree Bailey, Terry Welsher and me. Rev. Jan, Christiana McQuain, and David Morgen, our ministerial intern, also attended. I was the only one present in-person but the UUCG group chatted regularly about the business sessions and workshops we each attended. We'll share learnings over the summer. Meanwhile, I want to express that I have a fuller, deeper understanding now of the UU movement across the country and am excited for our future -- amazing youth were there!

Lay Ministers

We are pleased to announce the roster of Lay Ministers for the 22-23 program year.

The next round of changes will occur in January.

Radical Welcome—Bill Benshoof (he/him)

Green Space—Terry Welsher (he/him)

Spiritual Growth—Bob Patrick (he/him)

Connecting Within—Joe Bentley (he/him)

Connecting Beyond—Barbara Stahnke (she/her)

Endowment Fund

Submitted by Doug Beers (he/him)

The UUCG Endowment Fund is pleased to announce that we have provided a grant of \$1112 to UUCG to help with the cost for our General Assembly delegates and for leadership development in 2022. The amount of the grant is determined by the prior year (2021) earnings of the fund.

We are also pleased to announce the re-appointment of Barbara Stahnke (she/her) to a 3 year term as a member of the Endowment Fund Board of Directors.

For your annual "Birthday Club" donation, please make your check payable to The UUCG Endowment Fund, Inc. Thank you all for your continued support.

Turning Sun Relations

Submitted by

The UUCG Turning Sun Relations Committee

As we return to in-person gathering and activities in our building and on our grounds, there are some considerations that we need to remain aware of in order to provide an optimal environment for our valued tenants, the Turning Sun School.

Turning Sun Staff are not available to provide access to the building or assistance for members or contractors

during school hours. If you are planning to be on church property during the week when the Turning Sun preschool is in session, please confine your activities to the front of the building (Sanctuary, Library, and main office). If you require access to other spaces or the outside grounds, please contact church staff in advance so **we can be present on campus. The school's**

license requires all unattended persons present in the

areas where children are to have a current background check on file.

Thank you for your attention to these guidelines.



turning sun
school

Being a Locavore

Submitted by Candice Bizzell (she/her)

Are you a localterian? I discovered localterian ideology in the book “Sacred Actions” by Dana O’Driscoll, and realized, I can be a locavore! When looking at where my food comes from I thought to myself “How can I change this?”

But what is a localterian and who are locavores?

A localterian is someone who tries to eat exclusively locally produced food, within a 100 to 500 mile radius; aka locavores. The hundred to five hundred distance is a huge radius if you think about it. One hundred mile radius gets you to the border of Tennessee, South Carolina, down to Macon and just across the border of Alabama.

There is so much diversity in these areas and so many farms you don’t even realize are there.

But why be a locavore? Obtaining fresh local food from the source has a multitude of benefits.

First, you know where your food comes from. You can see the growing conditions, the farmer picking it with care and placing it on their stand. Sometimes you can pick your own food, from strawberries to watermelons and a variety of produce in between.

Secondly, you are saving transportation emissions by not purchasing the produce from thousands of miles away. I can’t even go into detail of how much fossil fuel is used to transport food!

Third, you are supporting the local economy! You put money into your own area and the farmer and his family greatly appreciate it.

Lastly, the produce is more nutrient dense than produce from mass produced farms; therefore, you eat healthier!

So how do you become a locavore?

-Farm Bureau Passport program: throughout the year Tim and I participate in the Farm Bureau Passport program. This program rewards people for going to farms in their local area with prizes. I learn a lot every year and make valuable connections and friends. Visit them at www.gfb.org.

-Grow your own, planting your favorite foods can reduce your grocery bill, but also your carbon footprint. Lots of free gardening info is available at your local extension office

-Buy local in the grocery store or participate in a local farm delivery service. Here in the Atlanta area we have the Market Wagon, www.marketwagon.com supported by Kroger.

-Eat seasonally, know what your seasonal produce is, this will provide a smorgasbord of variety to your diet. (No more winter strawberries from Chile)

-Shop at a farmer’s market near you! The prices may seem higher for local, organic vegetables because the small farmers are not eligible for the subsidies given to huge farms.

This little step can do so much in the way of your health and the environment! Let’s go forth and be the best locavores we can be!

GREEN TEAM

PROPERTY WORK DAY!
IS POSTPONED FOR
THE MONTH OF

July

But, if you want to stop by:

Please feel free to,
water the Keyhole garden,
the garden at the entrance,
the garden by the parking lot
and the pollinator garden,
and the little library garden.



LET US HEAL TOGETHER



We are looking for stories of the experiences
we've all had in the last two years.

What have we learned?

Where are we going?

Please submit your story to Sherree Bailey at
sherree.lynn.bailey@gmail.com
(404)721-9224

SHARING OUR
STORIES TO MOVE
FORWARD

Hidden Article

Submitted by Aline Harris (she/her)

This article is an informal poll of how many people are reading the GNUUs. If you are reading this, please send a quick message to aharris@uucg.org

You don't have to, but if you would like, I'm interested in what parts of the publication you enjoy and any other thoughts you might have.

Thank you!

Super Easy Blueberry Cobbler

Submitted by Lorena Griffin (she/her) and Aline Harris (she/her)

Blueberries are associated with Lughnasadh, also known as the First Harvest. Blueberries are in season all around us right now.

Don't forget to attend the Sylvan Sanctuary Lughnasadh ritual on July 30th at 6pm.

1 stick butter

1c self-rising flour

1/4 c sugar

3/4 c milk

2 c blueberries

1/2 c sugar

1/4 c water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in 8x8 baking dish. Mix flour, 1/4 c sugar, and milk.

Pour over butter. Mix berries, 1/2 c sugar and 1/4 c water. Spoon over flour. Don't stir.

Bake 40-45 minutes.

Daily Prayer and Energy Blessings for Food
p. 149, *Sacred Actions*, Dana O'Driscoll

(use this prayer over food each day)

*With the blessings of the Earth,
I honor the lands that sustained this meal.
With the blessing of the air,
I honor the hands that prepared this meal.
With the blessing of fire,
I honor the labor that produced this meal.
With the blessing of water,
I honor the lives that were given for this meal.
With the blessing of spirit,
I wish a safe journey to those who now move on.
In gratitude, love, and peace,
I recognize that all are part of the great web of life.*

Connection Quotes

“Sufi music talks about connecting people. It talks about connecting hearts and connecting man with God. Everything that talks about connection is Sufi.”

-Javed Ali (he/him)

“Honestly if I had the time, I would love to learn every language in the world. I love connecting to people. If I can't do it through language, I will try to do it through my music.”

-Henry Lau (he/him)

“What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and its grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible.”

-John Lewis (he/him)

“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.”

-Dorothy Height (she/her)

What about connection is essential to *you*?

Rekindling the Fires of Love and Commitment

Submitted by Carol Pinto (she/her)

As the weather gets hotter, we're looking forward to our Congregational Retreat, Sept. 16-18 at The Mountain.

The Mountain – located near Highlands, NC, just above the Georgia line. UUCG welcomes all members and friends to this time for fun and fellowship. All ages and activities from quiet meditation to trail hiking.

Sue-Ann Soloway, one of our founding members, thinks back to early UUCG retreats. She and her late husband Steve and daughters Jennifer and Ellen attended many retreats going back to the late 1980s.

“Our early trips to The Mountain included hard work like digging ditches and putting up buildings. But soon we were joining other families and friends for relaxing retreats. We had so much fun! Playing games, dancing, and getting outdoors. There were team building experiences, like a trust walk. Glow worms after dark. Campfires and s'mores. We really got to know each other.”

Our fall retreat will have many of these activities – for young and old, crafts, singing, nature walks, and a farm tour. The Mountain has made improvements over the years to make it more accessible for all.

Sign up at <https://www.themountainrlc.org>

Go to Upcoming Events and scroll down to the UUCG Congregational Fall Retreat (not the leadership retreat in July). Click on Learn More and Register. Register by Aug. 26 for the best price. Children pay less and some scholarship funds are available. Talk to Rev. Jan about those.



Give Away the Plate Recipient

Submitted by The Give Away the Plate Committee

During the July-thru-September quarter, **North Gwinnett Cooperative** will receive one half of all Sunday morning plate donations. This organization is fighting hunger and building hope. Located in Buford, it has a food pantry with bread, bakery goods, and groceries. It also provides income-based financial assistance for utilities and medications. Clients receive vouchers for free clothing from the thrift store (the thrift store is also open to the public, and funds earned from sales are designated to client services). There is also a summer food program for children when the public schools are not in session.

What, to the Slave, is the Fourth of July

By Fredrick Douglass

“What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days of the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is a constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to Him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes that would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation of the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of these United States at this very hour.”

Continuing Support For Corley Elementary

Submitted by Carol Richardson (she/her)

We are looking for one or two people to take over the handling of our contributions to Corley. There have been three events each year. I have stepped down but Toby Lyles will continue to support those who step up by writing and posting the activities.

Event #1: last year, instead of the backpacks we had been donating, Corley requested clothes and provided us with a list of specific items. The drive was highly successful

.Event #2: at Corley's suggestion, we continued with our gift cards, mostly from Walmart. This past January we presented the school with \$975 in cards.

Event #3: Corley has no PTA so during the spring on a day suggested by Corley, we take snacks for its staff during a parent/teacher day. Peggy, along with other UUCG volunteers, has headed this portion for years.

According to my notes, we have supported Corley since 2011. Please consider being the coordinator or taking charge of one of the events. In the past we have collected and turned over items from Event #1 just before or soon after school begins. So it will be soon.

I have the Corley contact information. Questions? Please contact me or info@uucg.org. If no one(s) steps forward, we may have no other choice but to discontinue our support.

Nurturing Connections



Food Bank Dropoff July 3 2pm-4pm
Front Porch at UUCG



Tarot Sundays every Sunday at 5pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363



Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at 7pm
Onsite



Yarns From the Heart July 6 10am
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Spiral Scouts July 10 12:30pm
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



Belief Explorers July 10 12:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304



Green Team Meeting July 16 9:30am
Zoom Meeting ID: 926-178-30455



Board Meeting July 19 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773



Yarns From the Heart July 20 10am
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Book Group July 27 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833




















Sylvan Sanctuary Lughnasadh Ritual July 30 6pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 528-297-2479

Visit our Calendar Online for more information and links to our Zoom rooms.

For all of the Zoom events, go to <https://zoom.us/join> (or call 646-558-8656) and enter the Meeting ID

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1	2
3 	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10   	11	12 	13	14	15	16 
17 	18	19  	20 	21	22	23
24  	25	26 	27 	28	29	30 
31 